

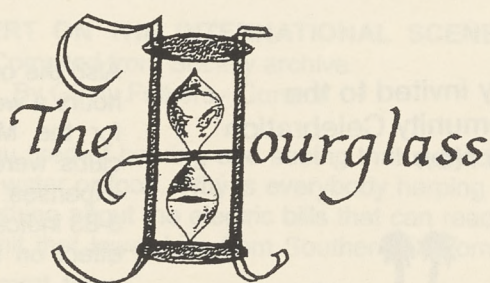
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Historical Society of Palm Desert

P.O. Box 77

Palm Desert, CA 92261

(760) 346-6588



Community

Service

Collections

Archives

SPRING 2008

VOL. 15, NO. 1

JOSLYN COVE SENIOR CENTER

Compiled from Society archive

by V. Folkers, HSPD Curator

It was in January 1981 that about 40 interested residents met to discuss the possibility of initiating a program for seniors in the Cove Community. Residents of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Indian Wells were predominantly older people so there was a need to be met. Their goal was to form a board of five persons with leadership qualities in various areas: contact with the city, fund-raiser, organizer, social expert and a realtor. Within a month a board of seven was chosen: Hank Clark, Jean Ann Hirschi, Duke Baker, Jo Benes, George Sweet, Bud Reinbold, and Jean Hollenbeck. The official name of the organization was "Palm Desert Senior Association."

The organization's objectives were to provide guidance in arranging and securing meaningful services and facilities to local seniors who were seeking assistance, life enrichment and companionship. The association would continuously examine the stated wants and needs of members. It would rely on volunteer help and funds; also, federal, state, local agencies and governments would be approached for needed financial resources.

Short term goals were a central meeting place and regularly scheduled meetings to enrich, instruct or entertain. Churches would be asked to make their social halls available for special events. The long term goal was to build a strong organizational and financial foundation for orderly growth. Besides the Board of Directors, they had a 12-person Advisory Council and a Production Division. After 12 months of successful operation, they would select a full or part-time director capable of setting up programs, fund-raising, and diplomatic interaction. The organization had a donated office at 73-425 El Paseo - Suite 24-A by April 1981.

On November 30 of that same year Hank Clark wrote to Merritt Joslyn, a trustee of the Marcellus L. Joslyn Foundation in Thunderbird Country Club. The letter was a "thank you" for the offer of a donation of \$100,000 in the year of 1983 to the Association. A formal application would be needed, a commitment to raise matching funds, and the building would be named for the Foundation. Two representatives were to meet with the Trustees in April of 1982.

Another letter was sent to Riverside County asking for a \$5,000 one-time donation from Title III. The city donated a three-acre site for the new facility at the corner of Catalina Way and San Pasqual Avenue at \$1.00 per year lease for 45 years. The architect was working on the plans and a cost estimate. In only 10 months time, the Association had 575 members and the monthly programs attracted 600 people.

A public relations firm was hired to formulate a letter asking for donations for this worthy endeavor. Long term goals were listed: 6000 square foot building would include -- meeting hall to seat 250, kitchen, reception area, activity rooms, counseling offices, lawn bowling green, shuffleboard court, shaded ramada, and parking. Programs would eventually cover the following subjects: music appreciation, drama, arts & crafts, calisthenics & aerobics, bridge, travel, desert biology, literature, gardening & landscaping, area history, cribbage, horseshoes, ping pong, billiards, gourmet cooking, and photography. Other offerings would be: blood pressure checks, flu shots, guidance in fields of health, finances, taxes and legal matters.

The estimated cost was calculated to be \$500,000. Fundraising yielded an impressive list of generous people and organizations: \$5,000 or more - 10, \$2,500 or more - 9, \$1,000 - 23, \$500 - 13, \$250 - 31, under \$250 - 92. By May of 1983 the Joslyn Foundation grant of \$150,000 had been matched and the construction was planned to start in early fall. However, operating funds of \$146 a month were needed to pay for office space, which had been donated for the previous two years.

You are cordially invited to the
Dedication and Community Celebration
For the New



Serving the Cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage,
Indian Wells and Adjacent Unincorporated Areas.

Friday, February 22nd, 1985

Dedication Ceremonies 11:00 - 12:00 Noon
Refreshments and Open House 12:00 - 4:00

73-750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert
at corner of San Pascual

Cove Communities Senior Center. There were now 1000 members, and 10,000 had attended activities so far this year. Joe Hernandez, Walt Snyder, Merritt Joslyn and George Sweet wielded the golden shovels at the event. The new building was designed by architect John Outcalt, and it would be constructed by contractor Robert Jacobs Company. The Joslyn Foundation was the major contributor with \$150,000, and the Cities of Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage as well as Riverside County were the main sponsors.

Earth-movers were soon busy at the site. Cove community residents began to witness the dream come true. There was an urgent need, and a few community leaders jumped in and got the ball rolling. Today we have a beautiful facility that serves the needs of hundreds of our senior citizens. It is another success story in our local history.

NEW MEMBERS

Supporting: Harry Quinn

Family: Pam Boyles, Richard Freeman

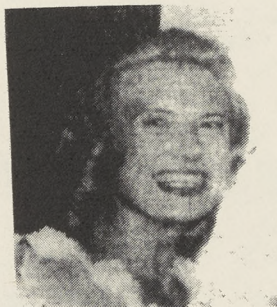
Individual: Tim Evans, Karen Dumm, Frank Campellone, Pehgee Morris, Lita Tunnicliff

MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN OUR MEMORIES

Pioneers whose lives have made local history

Richard Brunner & Jan King

The Society has members who have celebrity or near-celebrity status. Jan King was one of those people. When reviewing her life, it seems she had unbridled energy and she used it to take positions involving significant personalities. During her 90 years, she traveled the world with Bob Hope and his group who entertained American troops at Christmas time. She was Hope's personal secretary, his "Girl Friday" and he thanked her "for the memories."



After graduation from Duke University in Des Moines, Iowa, King began her career in New York City as a model. Years later she met Bob Hope while working part-time for NBC. She was in Hope's employ for 15 years, she then joined former President Lyndon Johnson's administration. Her next job was as a protocol officer at a military base in Arizona.

Jan was a delightful lady who always considered the Coachella Valley her "home" even when she was away from home. At Society luncheons you could always pick her out, she would be the one wearing the beautiful hat and entertaining others with her interesting conversations.

Also the one part-time employee needed an additional 15 hours a week to organize routes and get volunteer drivers for the Meals-on-Wheels program. Thus, eleven local clubs were asked to give financial support for operating expenses. A report from the City of Palm Desert dated 6-3-83 indicated that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The City also arranged for a grant from California Parks & Recreation for the bowling green.

A Desert Post article in June of 1983 mentioned that Ed Mullins was a new board member, and that he was busy forming a Citizen's Advisory Committee. Sign-ups were being taken for the Island Princess cruise to Alaska, arts and crafts class would begin, the Sunny Singers would continue to meet on Wednesdays, bridge sessions would be at St. Margaret's Church, blood pressure were on Thursdays, and tax assistance was on Wednesday. The final free movie would be at Palm Desert Library. So, you can see that the programs were well under way by mid-1983.

Plans for the construction of a 6,000 square foot building were scheduled to begin on November 22, 1983. The name of the building would be the Marcellous L. Joslyn

PALM DESERT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Compiled from Society archive

By Ginny Folkers - Curator

The magic word is "CONSERVATION." Are you tired of hearing and seeing that subject every time you turn around. You might say to yourself, "I don't waste energy or water or food. Why is everybody harping on this conservation thing?" Well, our local government officials want to do something about the electric bills that can reach into the \$1,000 mark during hot weather here in the desert. You'll have to admit that lower bills from Southern California Edison and the Gas Company would definitely get our "yes" vote.

In the February 11, 2008 issue of the Wall Street Journal, Palm Desert was one of nine cities in the world featured for coming up with innovative ways to cut energy use. Councilman Ferguson was instrumental in contacting the Energy Coalition, which helps cities and utilities formulate plans to slash energy consumption. If the whole city of 50,000 gets involved, by 2011 consumption can be cut by 30% -- that translates into \$40 million per year.

Of course, old air conditioners are the biggest energy guzzlers. A \$1,400 rebate on a new energy-saving A.C., which uses about half the power, is available to residents. Since the program began in January 2007, the city has saved 12% towards its goal, and removed 3475 tons of carbon from the air. Renewable energy is also being considered.

"Would you give up your lawn?" That headline in the Desert Sun really grabbed me, because I fought for my lawn for years. But an attitude adjustment made drought-tolerant landscaping look more and more appealing. So we stripped out the lawn and put down crushed Palm Springs gold rock, brought in a few boulders and smaller rocks, and put in plants which didn't require much water. Most of the plants were volunteers and gifts. Experience has taught us that smoke trees are not good transplant candidates, and the voracious snout weevil and grubs are almost always victorious in getting their agave dinner during the hottest summer months.

Retired Councilman Buford Crites says, "We've been able to pretend we don't live in a desert for the last 100 years. That illusion is about to end." The valley's two main sources of water, Northern California and the Colorado River, are in jeopardy. So consider trading in your lawn for "desert friendly" landscaping. Three of the most inviting incentives to make the change are: no more lawn mowing, no more scalping and reseeding in the Fall (allergy sufferers will be grateful), and half the water bill. Just do it -- you'll be glad you did!

DONATIONS

Shadow Mountain Palette Club	8 club scrapbooks	1 oil painting (floral) by Evelyn Chevoor
Mike Donovan / Jackie Damron	10 photos of flood damage, 1976-1979	
Carol Morton / Dan Callahan	1 photo of "Hopalong Cassidy" (William Boyd)	
Peter Rittenhouse	1 framed aerial photo, 24 x 36, black & white, of Joslyn Cove Senior Center	

THANK YOU

The Society membership, and especially the Society curator, is deeply indebted to Angie Rover who found and returned to its rightful place the #1 folder for the Highway 74 file. It had been missing for a long time and everyone was beginning to consider it lost forever. Miracles do happen, and we have Angie to thank for this one.

SPRING FIREHOUSE YARD SALE

On Saturday, March 15, the Society will hold a yard sale from 7:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. at the museum on El Paseo. We have quite a collection of power and hand tools, vintage magazines, kitchen gadgets, household bric-a-brac and much more. If you have anything to donate, please drop it off before the 15th. Volunteers are needed to help on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to help price, set up and sell. Men are also needed to help with picking up furniture....call 346-6588.

ED MULLINS MEMORIAL "PICNIC IN THE PARK"

This will be the 8th annual picnic (and) the 2nd annual meeting of the Red Shirt Society. Sunday, March 30 is the date and the time is 11:30 a.m. A lunch of the famous Keedy-style burgers, beans, potato salad, chips, dessert and a beverage will be served at noon for the low donation price of \$10. Please wear your Historical Society shirt or any red shirt in your wardrobe. After lunch there will be introductions, a raffle, and lots and lots of socializing. Plan to join us for the fun. You can pay for the lunch at the picnic in the large pavilion at Civic Center Park, and buy a t-shirt if you would like. Please call the Society at 346-6588 and tell us how many will be in your party. See you there!!

EARTHQUAKES AND THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT

Lecture by Fred Quinn

This January lecture at the firehouse attracted a full-house attendance. A fault consists of a core (inner), mantle (middle) and crust (surface.) There are continental and oceanic, upper and lower faults. The last Pacific rise indicated that the Pacific plate is moving northwest by west. The Andes and Aleutian plate is dissolving or subducting. A normal fault is based on tension, while a reverse fault is based on compression. The Coachella Valley fault is an oblique-slip which is located in the Indio Hills. Thousand Palms exhibits a 100 yard fault plane which continually moves.

The largest earthquake recorded in the United States was in Missouri in 1811 and 1812. For tracking quakes years ago, the old machine used consisted of a weight, a spring and a drum. The new machines used today are entirely electronic. Earthquake scientists focus on where the quake starts, and also where the surface effect is located; which is called the epicenter. The primary wave goes through solid, liquid and gas; this wave is noticed most quickly by animals. The secondary wave is also the slowest and it will not go through liquid. There is a definite time lapse between the primary and secondary waves when it reaches the surface, and it has a rolling sensation.

The intensity scale is measured by the Richter scale which will give the highest wave of movement and that number is multiplied by ten to determine the intensity of the quake. The energy which is emitted by the quake does the damage on the surface. In the Anchorage quake of 1964, the known time and place of an atomic bomb explosion aided that earthquake study. The San Jacinto and San Andreas Faults are the ones which affect the Coachella Valley. These faults are moving one inch per year in a northwesterly direction.

A Pacific Plate causes rocking, while the Atlantic Plate is more amplified by the sand shaking. The Martinez Slide, located near Monroe and 62nd Avenue happened during the ice age and is considered a prehistoric quake. Supposedly there will be a major quake every 315 years. Beginning with 1680, the one that should have happened in 1995 didn't materialize, so experts expect a really big one soon.

SPRING LUNCHEON / ELECTION

Chairperson Beverly Bergh has planned a lovely event to be held in the club house at Palm Desert Country Club. The date is Wednesday, April 23, beginning with a social hour at 11:00 a.m. and lunch served at 12-noon -- cost is \$25. The speaker will be Jerry Patton, College of the Desert president, who will fill us in on all that is happening on campus.

FOUNDER'S DAY

This year our annual event will honor the well-known valley couple, **Richard and Jan Oliphant**. Starting back in the fall of 1962 they moved to Coachella Valley with their five children, when Dick accepted the position of project manager for Palm Desert Country Club. At that time Richard attributed his prior success in Iowa to his pure Scotch ancestry. The desire to accomplish certain goals and the willingness to put in the time and effort to achieve them has served him well. They have coined the phrase "Community service is the price you pay for the space you occupy", and they have made it a living, breathing truth in their lives. The talents and unselfish attitudes of this couple have definitely affected the local history of this valley for the better. They can truly be considered pioneers of the highest order.

Plan to attend the Founder's Day celebration in the Council Chamber of Palm Desert's city hall on Saturday, May 17 from 2:00 pm till 4:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend and invite potential Society members.

BOARD SLATE & ELECTION CANDIDATES 2008 - 2010

President: Barbara Keedy Eastes
Vice-President: Brett Romer
Secretary: Marcy Gregory
Treasurer: Madonna Marman
Immediate Past Pres: Dick Folkers

Carry-Over 2008-2010

Beverly Bergh
Linda Carter
Don Graybill
Kim Housken

John Marman
Bob Pitchford
Hal Rover

To be Elected 2008-2012

Marcy Gregory
Kermit Martin
Eric Vogt
Yvonne Kelley

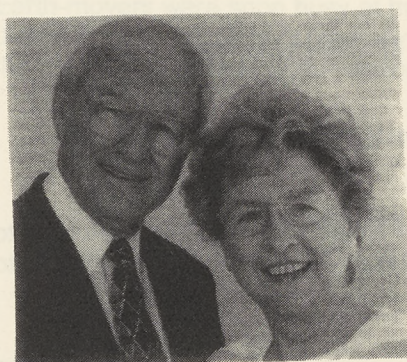
Thank You for Past Service:

Lois Bradstreet

Jackie Damron

Helene Harrison

Kay McCune



JAN. 16 BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

By President Dick Folkers

- Jean Ernst will continue to chair the Volunteer Committee until a replacement is found. Volunteers are needed for two hours or more on a scheduled or unscheduled basis for docent-type work.
- The spring luncheon will be on Wednesday, April 23 and several sites are being considered.
- A one-day yard sale will be held on Saturday, March 15 from 7:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.
- The Ed Mullins picnic will be held on Sunday, March 30 with Barbara Keedy Eastes and Carole Cole co-chairing.
- A committee is working on B.J. Callahan Scholarships for 5th graders at Washington Charter School. The principal, Allan Lehman, and Desert Sands Unified School District are supportive.
- The Board will consider having a booth at the C.O.D. Street Fair this spring for Society exposure.
- A demolition party for El Paseo Village (south side of El Paseo between Lupine and San Pablo) is being considered as a fund raiser for the Society. The demo will take place this fall.

JAN. 20 BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

- Palm Desert Country Club has been selected as the location for the spring luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, April 23.
- Dick and Jan Oliphant have been confirmed as the recipients for the 2008 Founder's Day award. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Palm Desert City Council Chambers.
- The Society was invited to have representation at the Wild Flower celebration on Saturday, February 16 at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument visitor center on Highway 74 near Bighorn. The Society's booth was worked by Kim Houskin, Dan Callahan, Don Graybill and Dick Folkers. Over 1000 visitors attended the event.
- The By-Laws and Ballot are to be sent out this month.
- We received \$2,500 from the Murphy Foundation for the second-grade tours. Donations to defray the cost of \$8.94 per student will be greatly appreciated.
- Four Board members will be attending the Palm Desert Rotary "Citizen of the Year" event honoring Councilman Bob Spiegel on Monday, March 3, at Desert Willow.
- The Board voted to provide an honorary membership to former Palm Springs Mayor Frank Bogert to celebrate his 98th birthday.
- Our budget request to the City of Palm Desert was submitted to the Finance Department for consideration as part of their 2008-2009 budget.

A DESERT DIARY

By Kay Craig

This manuscript has been in our collection for some time, and it was thought to be about the Cahuilla Hills. It turns out, however, that the desert which it refers to is in Arizona about 800 feet above the desert floor. Kay and her husband bought a couple of lots and built a home which eventually became part of a burgeoning community. One of their neighbors was an eccentric woman who caused many problems for the residents. Not only was she disagreeable, but there was such an air of mystery about her and her actions that she became the central character in most of the book. The writing also contained a few interesting facts which bear repeating.

Is there any difference between a donkey and a jackass? An ass is a donkey. A jackass is specifically a male donkey. A 'hinny' is the offspring of a she-ass and a stallion and is usually sterile. Now a mule is the offspring of a male-ass and a female horse, and a mule is almost always sterile. This lesson on animal husbandry came from one of the neighbors who owned a donkey which he loved dearly. His name was "Poncho", his Mexican Cadillac.

Some remarks about the benefits of trees and shrubs came from a bewhiskered hippie who had a degree in horticulture and viticulture. Trees are superb air purifiers and prolific generators of oxygen. So the planting of trees should ideally keep pace with the use of motor vehicles. Trees are also a source of negative ions in the air. These charged particles produce positive psychological and physiological effects on people, and they neutralize the opposite effects produced by negative ions. Wind, visibility and noise can be reduced by trees in a proper planting pattern.

April Fool's Day

A commonly accepted origin of April Fool's Day involves the changing of the calendar. At one time, the New Year celebration began on March 25 and ended on April 1. However, in 1582 King Charles IX adopted the Gregorian calendar and accepted the beginning of the new year as January 1. Those who refused to acknowledge the new date or simply forgot received foolish gifts and invitations to non-existent parties. The butt of such a prank was known as a "poisson d'avril" or "April fish."

- Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed. --Mark Twain

- He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks. -- Francois, Duc de La Rochefoucauld

- from American Legion Post 301 newsletter, April 2006 issue

HAL ROVER – SOCIETY SPEAKER

This loyal and very active past-president of the Society is in demand for his talks on various topics. He is an excellent researcher and is being aided by our photo guru, Brett Romer, in compiling Power Point presentations on various facets of local history. On Friday (2-22-08) he gave a lecture on Artists in Coachella Valley's history for over 40 people. Then on Monday (2-25-08) he accommodated the O.C.H.E.R. Group - UCR Extension at the request of John Outcault's daughter. Hal is also the one to contact for school tours and actively contributes his time for exhibits and docent work. If your club or organization would like to make use of his services, please call 346-6588 for an appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 15, Sat.	Yard Sale, one-day only	Firehouse	7:00 am till 2:00 pm
Mar. 28, Fri.	Lecture: Gen. Patton & Camp Young; Jesse McKeever, Historian and bush pilot	Firehouse \$5	7:00 pm
Mar. 30, Sun.	Ed Mullins "Picnic in the Park" (and) Red Shirt Society meeting Keedy-style burgers, beans, potato salad, chips, dessert, and beverage - \$10 per person / call reservations 346-6588	Park Pavilion	11:30 sign-up 12-noon lunch
Apr. 18, Fri.	Lecture: Colorado Desert Wildflowers; Jon Mark Stewart.	Firehouse \$5	7:00 pm
Apr. 23, Wed.	Spring Luncheon / Election; Palm Desert Country Club Cost is \$25; speaker: Jerry Patton, C.O.D. President Call 346-6588 for reservations.	Clubhouse	11:00 am social 12:00 luncheon
Apr. 25, Fri.	Marian Henderson Tree Planting - Arbor Day (tentative)		
May 17, Sat.	Founder's Day = Recipients: Dick & Jan Oliphant Palm Awards Refreshments will be served. Public welcome.	City Hall	2:00 - 4:00 pm
June 30, Mon.	Museum closing date - closed July & August for summer.		

Ginny Folkers, editor

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